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COMMERCE PASS NOAA FOR DUS J.KELLY, R.MASTERS, W.BOLHOFER
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SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE WMO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 57TH SESSION

SUMMARY

¶11. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) 57th Executive Council (EC) Session was held June 21-July 1, 2005 in Geneva. The EC addressed a number of items including continuing financial reform efforts, potential changes to the WMO convention, program details, financial and administrative matters, and a possible World Climate Conference (WCC-3). Additional information on financial and administrative matters and the WCC-3 is provided in REFTELS. Overall, the EC session went smoothly and the outcomes were aligned with US interests.

¶12. The EC decided to continue the Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention and charged it with further exploring benefits and risks involved in advancing Convention amendments and other options. The EC agreed to proceed with planning for a third World Climate Conference (WCC-3) based specifically on the overarching scientific theme of advances in seasonal to interannual and possibly decadal forecasting. The decision on holding the conference was deferred to next year.

¶13. The External Auditor gave an unqualified opinion for the 2004 account. The EC decided to audit WMO accounts on an annual basis and approved the proposed Program and Budget of CHF 126.630 million for the second biennium (2006-2007) of the financial period. The EC agreed to close the fraud investigation, but recommended the Audit Committee remain in place supplemented by a Task Force to review its recommendations. The US Perm Rep will remain on the Audit Committee as well as the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC). The US Perm Rep was nominated a core member of a new Ad Hoc Group to develop budget options for WMO financial period 2008-2011.

GENERAL MATTERS

¶14. US Permanent Representative to the WMO, Brigadier General John J. Kelly, Jr. (USAF, ret) led the US delegation to the 57th session of the Executive Council (EC-LVII), Geneva, June 21-July 1, 2005. Gen Kelly also participated in the FINAC, which met immediately prior to the session. BGEN David L. Johnson (USAF, ret) was the alternate during the session. They were assisted by advisors Charles Ashley (DOS/US Mission Geneva), Maureen Wylie (NOAA), Kelly Turner (NOAA), Robert Masters (NOAA-NWS), William Bolhofer (NOAA-NWS), Chester Koblinsky (NOAA-OAR), D. Brent Smith (NOAA-NESDIS), Harry Lins (USGS), James Purdom (Colorado State), John Toohey-Morales (American Meteorological Society).

¶15. Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, (USN, ret), Deputy Under Secretary and NOAA Administrator, provided a presentation on the Group on Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS) in his capacity as co-chair of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). The WMO recently established the GEO Secretariat. While in Geneva, VADM Lautenbacher also signed an agreement with the Russian hydrometeorological service for cooperation under the US/Russian S&T Agreement. Also, Dr. Michael Glantz, a US scientist with the National Center for Atmosphere Research, was invited by the WMO to present his views on the social perception of climate issues. John Morales (AMS Commissioner) and popular broadcast meteorologist for Telemundo (NBC) worked with the WMO Secretariat conducting interviews and filming for later broadcast in the US, Caribbean and Central American region.

¶16. With a view to streamlining the EC process, members agreed to meet in plenary forgoing the traditional committee A, B and C structure. This allowed documents with little change to move directly to "approved." Provision was also made for a half-day discussion on issues related to hydrological security.

¶17. The EC approved the S-G proposal to appoint Mr. R.D.

Jerry Lengoasa (South Africa) as Assistant Secretary-General effective August 8, 2005. The 58th session of the EC will be conducted in Geneva, June 20-30, 2006.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

18. This session of the EC was unprecedented for member turnover. Three times during the session the members were called upon to designate acting members as follows: Mr. Mourad Shawky Saadallah to replace Mr. M. M. Arafa (Egypt), Mr. Sanjiv Nair to replace Mr. S.K. Srivastav (India), Mr. Massimo Capaldo to replace Mr. R. Sorani (Italy), Mr. John Mitchell to replace Dr. D. Rodgers (United Kingdom), Mr. Wolfgang Kusch to replace Mr. U. Gartner (Germany), Mr. D. Francisco Cardarso Gonzalez to replace Ms. M. Couchoud Gregori (Spain). Mr. Woon Shih Lai (Singapore), President of Regional Association V (RA V, Southwest-Pacific) and ex-officio member of EC, announced his retirement during the session. Mr. Arogna Ngari (Cook Islands) is now RA V acting president and designated EC member. During the EC intersession Mr. A. Ndiaye (Senegal) and Mr. E. Zarate (Costa Rica) relinquished their EC positions. Mr. N.F. Ouattara (Burkina Faso) and Mr. Paulo Manso (Costa Rica) were elected acting EC members respectively through correspondence.

19. The EC constituted two Working Groups, (1) Long-Term Plan, and (2) Evolution of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service - the latter group a merging of the EC Advisory Group on the Role and Operation of NMHS and the EC Action Group for an Enhanced WMO. Advisory Groups on Data Exchange, Climate and Environment, Disasters, and Technical Cooperation were also reconstituted. Gen Jack Kelly was designated a member of both the Disaster and Data Exchange Advisory Groups.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND CONSTITUENT BODY SESSIONS

10. The EC was informed of the thirteenth session WMO Regional Association II (Asia), Hong Kong, China, December 7-15, 2004. The association elected Mr. A. Majeed H. Isa (Bahrain) as President and Dr. C. Y. Lam (Hong Kong) as Vice President. WMO Regional Association IV (North America, Central America, and the Caribbean) conducted its fourteenth session in San Jose, Costa Rica, April 5-13, 2005. The association elected Mr. Carlos Fuller (Belize) as President and Mr. Paul Manso (Costa Rica) as Vice President. The Council was informed of an agreement between WMO and the Kingdom of Bahrain to establish a WMO Sub-regional Office for Asia in Manama.

11. The Council was informed of two commission sessions. The twelfth session of the Commission for Hydrology met in Geneva, October 20-29, 2004. The commission elected Mr. Bruce Stewart (Australia) as president and Mr. J. Wellens-Mensah (Ghana) as vice president. The thirteenth session of the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) took place in St Petersburg, Russia, February 23-March 3, 2005. The Commission elected Dr. Alex Gusev (Russia) as President and Mr. Gerhard Hoffman (Germany) as Vice President.

FRAUD AND REFORM

12. EC-LVI established an Audit Committee to review issues associated with WMO's fraud case and provide reform guidance to the Secretariat. The Committee, chaired by Mr. Udo Gartner (Germany), met three times during the intersessional period, including just prior to EC-LVII. The EC-LVII approved a resolution (EC-LVII Res. 4.1/x) to continue the Audit Committee with the next meeting scheduled October 24-25, 2005, Geneva. The Committee will be comprised of six EC members including Gen Kelly and three external financial experts. WMO Secretariat representation at the Committee meetings is only at the invitation of the chairperson. The EC also approved a resolution (EC-LVII Res. 4.1/xx) creating a Task Force on Recommendations Emanating from the Audit Committee.

13. The Committee was informed of progress on the fraud investigation by the WMO's Internal Auditor and Investigative Service (IAIS). A voluminous report completed in April 2005 by the IAIS did little to further illuminate the known basic facts of the case. Approximately US\$3.4 million was diverted during the 13th financial period (1999-2003) primarily in the training and fellowship area. The principal conspirator fled Switzerland. The Swiss authorities have an ongoing investigation. The IAIS investigation implicated several other WMO Secretariat staff who exhibited professional shortcomings; they have since been disciplined or left the Organization. The Committee

recommended closing the investigation after considering the time and effort required to continue the investigation and the unlikelihood of finding additional significant knowledge pertinent to the fraud.

¶14. The Audit Committee was apprised of the implementation of the Secretariat's Action Plan on Management Reform. The Reform Plan was developed in response to the fraud case to prevent additional financial irregularities. The Plan focuses on improving three areas of WMO operations: 1) integrity - establishing an internal control system particularly as it relates to moving financial resources; 2) transparency - providing key information for decision-making to Members and management on activities, finance, budget and staffing; and, 3) efficiency - reducing administrative costs and time requirements for decisions through various process simplification mechanisms.

¶15. The Secretariat plans to have most aspects of the Reform Plan implemented by December 2005. The S-G has instituted staff training to develop a culture of responsibility and accountability throughout the Secretariat ranks. The EC recommended the WMO adopt the UN Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service as an interim measure to the WMO's development of a more comprehensive Code of Ethics. Based on the Audit Committee's recommendation, the EC requested the S-G to strengthen the internal audit service and to examine options for outsourcing some or all of the internal audit service functions.

FINANCIAL MATTERS AND BUDGET

¶16. The 24th session of the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) met on June 20, 2005 to review the Report of the External Auditor and the Program and Budget for the second biennium of the 14th Financial Period. FINAC members were introduced to the new Financial Statement format reflecting the Secretariat's effort to enhance budget transparency. All funds are now reflected as Swiss francs (CHF), which is WMO's reporting currency. The proposed biennium (2006-2007) budget of CHF 126.63 million included expected results and performance indicators for each WMO program.

¶17. The National Audit Office of the United Kingdom, WMO's External Auditor, issued an unqualified opinion of the organization's accounts for the year 2004 with expenditures of CHF 59.872 million for that year. The External Audit report showed a cash surplus of CHF 18.6 million at the end of the year (December 31, 2004). This included CHF13.0 million carry over from the 13th financial period plus CHF 5.6 million from 2004. The EC accepted the Audit Committee's recommendation to have WMO financial statements audited on an annual basis commencing with 2005. The EC-LVIII will consider an appropriate amendment to the Financial Regulations to reflect this change. In variance to previous practice, the WMO signed a Letter of Understanding on October 28, 2004 with the External Auditor specifying responsibilities of each Party.

¶18. The EC approved the program and budget for the second biennium 2006-2007 of the financial period amounting to CHF 126.630 million. The World Weather Watch Program (WWWP) and World Climate Program (WCP) received CHF 11.531 million and CHF 12.517 million, respectively. The Education and Training, Technical Cooperation, and Regional Programs - representing WMO's effort to develop capacity in the Least Developed Countries (LDC) - received a combined CHF 18.360 million. Linguistic, Publication and Conference Services received the largest proportion of the budget at CHF 21.327 million. The WMO Space Program was allocated CHF 2.067 million. The EC also approved FINAC's recommendation to allocate CHF 5.477 million cash surplus from the 13th financial period for WMO-proposed high priority activities. The Fourteenth Congress had agreed to suspend Financial Regulation 9.1 (Res. 30; Cg-XIV) during the 14th financial period with respect to the distribution of cash surpluses from the 13th financial period.

¶19. The S-G presented to the session a Program and Budget for the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011) on the basis of zero real growth (ZRG) in the amount of CHF 262.0 million. Gen Jack Kelly and other EC members expressed reservations about the ZRG proposal. An Ad Hoc Group was established (EC-LVII, Res.6/1) to consider both a zero nominal growth (ZNG) and ZRG program and budget options. The Group is co-chaired by Mr. Gartner (Germany) and Mr. Chow Kok Kee (Malaysia); Gen Jack Kelly was nominated a core member. The Group is expected to have its first meeting October 26-27, 2005.

¶20. The World Weather Watch report by Mr. G. Hoffman, CBS President, covered the discontinuation of the Vaisala RS-80 and RS-90 radiosonde systems. Mr. Schiessel, Director of WWP, provided EC members with a presentation on the "Impact of the replacement of radiosonde systems on the Global Upper Air network." The presentation included an analysis by Vaisala and results from the WMO Secretariat's own analysis. Vaisala has worked out contractual arrangements with a number of affected sites; they were eliminated from the final analysis. The Secretariat then eliminated from the survey those sites that had been silent for a five-year period. The final analysis resulted in eleven affected sites that were globally distributed. Half these sites will require an entire system replacement while the remainder requires software modifications.

¶21. Gen Kelly, at the request of US-based International Met Systems (InterMet), brought to the Secretary-General's attention a letter dated 29 April 2005, which gave the appearance of a WMO bias for Vaisala's RS-92 replacement system. The S-G issued a clarification letter to all WMO Members on July 8, 2005. It was mentioned during EC discussions the InterMet ground station could work with a number of different sondes and thus be manufacturer independent resulting in a long-term cost savings to operators. The WMO Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observations had tested and approved the InterMet ground system.

WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAM

¶22. The single polarizing issue discussed was the EC Advisory Group on Climate and Environment Ad Hoc Exploratory Committee meeting (May 2005) to scope out a Third World Climate Conference (WCC-3). The U.S. had previously and in other fora voiced its opposition to a WCC-3 citing a lack of demonstrated need as well as substantial costs to undertaking the Conference. However, in a tacit understanding worked out at the Ad Hoc meeting, it was agreed that planning for a Conference could proceed based specifically on the overarching scientific theme of advances in seasonal to interannual and possibly decadal forecasting. Any such Conference would take place at the earliest during the WMO's 15th financial period.

¶23. The Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) was recognized by the EC as an important contributor to the climate societal benefit area of the GEOSS plan. The GCOS secretariat with assistance from the U.S. and other

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countries completed its Implementation Plan, which was endorsed by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, Buenos Aires, December 2004. The EC advanced Resolution 3.2.3/1 (EC-LVII) endorsing GCOS activities and requesting GCOS to collaborate its Implementation Plan with that of GEO, SBSTA and the UNFCCC-COP. Dr. David Goodrich (formerly with NOAA) assumed the GCOS Director position in June 2005.

ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

¶24. The EC reviewed activities associated with the Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) particularly in the development of better urban environment forecast capabilities as demonstrated by GAW's Urban Research and Environment Project (GURME). It noted a recent report from the Integrated Global Atmospheric Chemistry Observations (IGACO) group the need for better vertical resolution of atmosphere chemistry in the lower troposphere, which could be satisfied by the GAW network. The EC requested the S-G to create a dedicated IGACO office within the Secretariat using extrabudgetary resources to coordinate chemistry observations from space to surface-based observing platforms.

¶25. The EC endorsed the THORPEX International Research Implementation Plan for 2005-2014, the established management mechanism and the organizational structure instituted by the Commission for Atmosphere Science (CAS) International Coordination Steering Committee (ICSC) for the implementation phase with an initial budget of US\$1.2 million. The U.S. contributes US\$150,000 on an annual basis in support of the THORPEX Project Office located at the WMO Secretariat. A Global Interactive Forecast System is a

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major goal for THORPEX. The Project Office informed the EC of an effort to stimulate developing countries interest in THORPEX through development of database and Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) product inventories.

126. The Hydrology and Water Resources program of WMO received support from the EC (and the U.S.) to participate in an International Flood Initiative. This initiative is a collaboration between UNESCO and WMO hydrologic program activities and leads the way for elimination of potential duplication of efforts and paves the way for joint projects using the strengths of both organizations. Many of the activities the WMO hydrology program are committed to, such as the WHYCOS. Training and update of the Guidelines for Hydrologic practices are needed by the hydrologic community and are well within WMO's capacities.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

127. The EC received a WMO report showing an overall decrease in funding for technical cooperation in 2004, due in large measure to cut backs in funding from UNDP. Total WMO technical assistance amounted to US\$20.5 million. The WMO was encouraged to pursue strategic partnerships with donor organizations and focus on LDC needs and natural disasters. The U.S. indicated it will provide US\$1.98 million Voluntary Contribution Program (VCP) funding this year. In a side-meeting of VCP donors, the WMO provided information on assistance to Iraq, which to date has been hampered by security concerns. Notable is the recent approval by Italy of US\$6.35 million to Iraq for hydrometeorological technical assistance.

NATURAL DISASTER PREVENTION

128. The chief of the cross-cutting Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Program (DPM) was filled last fall by an American citizen, Dr. Maryam Goldnarghi. Since her arrival the WMO has published a new brochure on DPM; participated actively in the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan) and activities related to Tsunami assessment/all hazard-early warning systems; held a first meeting of the DPM working Group; and prepared a strategy/planning document. The budget approved for this biennium calls for US\$2 million with an additional US\$2.5 million in funding from external contributions. This represents a 90% increase in budget with 2 times the personnel and 2 times the budget over 2003/4. EC discussion in side-meetings and plenary focused on the need for harmonization of the DPM budget with those of the other WMO Programs involved in disasters, the need for strategic partnerships with other organizations, and called for stronger performance measures in the DPM strategic plan.

SPACE PROGRAM

129. The director position within the WMO was elevated to a D-1 level. Dr. Don Hinsman, an American citizen, holds this post. The EC considers the WMO Space Programme and national space agencies as the major contributors to the space component of GEOSS. EC discussion focused on the importance and continuation of the annual WMO Consultative Meetings on High-Level Policy on Satellite Matters since they provide a forum for dialogue between WMO and space agency officials on the transition of research satellites and their data to operations.

130. The EC supported the establishment of Regional ATOVS Retransmission Systems (RARS). Both China and Japan stated that they would be developing RARS and contributing those data as part of an Integrated Global Data Dissemination Service. This has important implications for ATOVS use by global NWP centers, as well as potential expansion to include MODIS and AIRS data - both weather and GEOSS relevant. There was strong support for continued growth of the Virtual Laboratory (VL) and the role it was playing in improving satellite data utilization with WMO Members. Oman announced the establishment of a VL "Centre of Excellence" for satellite products; the Russian Federation will also establish a VL Centre of Excellence.

131. Japan announced that MTSAT-1R, a Meteorological and Telecommunication Satellite located at the Equator and 140 East, would become operational on June 28, 2005. They also expressed their gratitude to the U.S. for the loan of GOES-9 during the period prior to MTSAT-1R becoming operational. EUMETSAT stated that its Indian Ocean coverage will continue until the end of 2008.

EVOLVING ROLE OF WMO

132. The EC Action Group for an Enhanced WMO, chaired by Gen Kelly, presented its report to the EC on possible ways to make the WMO more responsive, proactive and relevant through changes in way it conducts its activities. The Group recognized the need to better organize and track performance of the WMO with respect to principal cross-cutting issues. Direction for change must come from the Organization's President and Vice-presidents with support from the S-G to effect change throughout the Secretariat. The Action Group also emphasized a need for the EC to take a more proactive role between sessions and for WMO elements across the board to develop a coherent approach on key issues and societal needs.

133. The EC merged into a new Working Group (WG) the EC Action Group for an Enhanced WMO with the Group on the Role and Operation of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (R&OpNMHS). The WG R&OpNMHS considered the need for increased NMHS recognition within its community of users and recommended two outward-looking statements addressed to decision makers and senior officials of NMHSs. The EC adopted a statement on the "Role and Operation of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (for decision-makers)" and recommended further work on a second statement for NMHSs.

GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS

134. VADM Lautenbacher, in his capacity as a GEO co-chair, provided the EC with a presentation on the status and plans for GEOSS. A lively discussion followed with many members seeking information about how countries in their regions could join the GEO effort. The EC agreed the GEOSS is an important initiative that can help WMO members address environmental and other challenges during the coming decades. The EC approved a resolution calling upon the WMO Secretariat to host the GEO Secretariat and establish a

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Trust Fund to support its work. It was announced during the session that Dr. Jose Achache (France) was selected GEO Secretariat Director.

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WMO QUALITY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (QMF)

135. Mr. Chow Kok Kee (Malaysia) presented outcomes of the WMO Workshop on Quality Management, Kuala Lumpur, November 2004. A majority of members expressed the need for additional technical guidance from WMO in developing and implementing a Quality Management System (QMS). The Secretariat noted the availability of the "First WMO

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Technical Report on QMF," (WMO/TD-No. 1268) which is comprised of quality management manuals from NMHSs having successfully implemented a QMS. The EC requested the S-G to establish a website to facilitate information exchange on QMS and to distribute a list of ISO 9001 certified NMSS willing to receive visitors for training. However, EC members from developing countries continue to express concern over the high cost of implementing and maintaining ISO 9001.

WMO CONVENTION

136. Mr. Udo Gartner, chairman to the EC Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention, informed the Council of possible draft Amendments to the Convention. Discussion among EC members ranged from the need to make the 50-year old Convention more relevant to WMO's global role to concern about ratification prospects for an amended Convention. Alternate to Gen Kelly, General Johnson, noted difficulties with any changes requiring US ratification in light of WMO's recent fraud problem and mismanagement in other UN agencies. Canada agreed, indicating that its government believes the language proposed by the Task Team - even for the preamble - would require ratification. The EC decided to continue the Task Team with a greater number of members and charged it with further exploring benefits and risks involved in advancing Convention amendments, as well as other options such as a periodic WMO Declaration as was accepted by the Cg-XIV. Carlos Fuller agreed to represent Region IV in the reconstituted Task Team, and informally requested US involvement given its concerns expressed during the EC. The S-G will send a letter to all members requesting their comments by November 1, 2005 on proposed amendments.

GENDER AND REPRESENTATION ISSUES

137. The representation of women within the WMO Secretariat, particularly at professional levels (P and D grades), is a US policy interest within the UN system, as is US representation in general within UN Organizations. The Secretariat's designated WMO Gender Focal Point, Ms.

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Virginia Guerrero gave two briefings to members on activities within the Secretariat. The US Perm Rep was represented at each briefing. Nearly 80 countries have designated a gender focal point for the NHMS; Ms. Vickie Nadolski, NOAA-NWS, represents the U.S. The WMO has established a dedicated website within its domain for women in meteorology and hydrology and is seeking pictorial contributions from Members. Cg-XIV provided a benchmark of actions to be completed by the Secretariat during the 14th Financial period which included conducting a third WMO Conference on Women in Meteorology and Hydrology. The US delegation reminded the S-G that the WMO gender policy and Implementation Plan are overdue.

138. The US Perm Rep along with the WMO and staff, has worked tirelessly to encourage and promote American citizen applications for WMO positions. Since the last EC in June 2004 the U.S. has garnered two D-level positions - Donald Hinsman (WMO Space Program) and David Goodrich (GCOS), and two P-level positions - Maryam Goldnarghi (Natural Disaster Program) and Robert Stephanski (World Climate Program).

AWARDS AND RECEPTIONS

139. The Council awarded the 50th International Meteorological Organization prize to Dr. John W. Zillman, former WMO President (1995-2003) and former Director of Australia's Bureau of Meteorology. The 2005 Norbert Gerbier-MUMM International award was presented to Dr. G. Beig (France) et al. during a ceremony and reception at WMO HQs. The Council conferred the 2005 WMO Research Award for Young Scientists to Dr. Nedjelika Zagar (Sweden) and Dr. Xiao Cunde (China). The United Arab Emirate Prize for Excellence in Advancing the Science and Practice of Weather Modification in collaboration with the WMO (US \$50,000) was conferred on ten winners, both individual and institutional. US winners included Thomas Henderson (Atmospherics Incorporated), Bernard Silverman, William Woodley and Daniel Rosenfeld (Woodley Weather Consultants), and Peter Hobbs with Arthur Rangno (University of Washington).

140. The US Perm Rep hosted a reception (sponsored by IBM) for EC members, guests, and WMO Secretariat staff on June 23 at Villa Tatiana, residence of Ambassador Kevin Moley, US Mission Geneva. Russia (WMO President), Italy, France, Germany, China and the UK also hosted receptions.

EC-LVIII

141. The 58th session of the EC will be held in Geneva, June 20-30, 2006. Some EC members noted the late June timing of EC sessions significantly impact their staffing resources since they must also cover the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission meetings occurring during the same time frame in Paris. Udo Gartner (Germany) addressed the EC in a parting farewell; he will retire from the Duetsch Wetterdienst in October 2005.

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